

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4845

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2014

STADIS/LIMDIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, US, OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON A)

REF: A. TAIPEI 2011; B. TAIPEI 2008; C. TAIPEI 2001

1. AS INDICATED REFTELS THE VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER TO TAIPEI HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF RELIEF, GRATITUDE AND SATISFACTION HERE. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT TO DATE ON THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, HIS PARTICIPATION IN FUNERAL ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN GIVEN PROMINENT NEWS COVERAGE. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH CHINESE (BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL) AS WELL AS COMMENTS FROM PRIVATE AMERICANS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE VISIT IS WARMLY WELCOMED BY EVERYONE LOCALLY.

2. GROC OFFICIALS WHO ASSISTED IN ARRANGING DETAILS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WERE OBVIOUSLY QUITE PLEASED AND EVEN EXPRESSED THEIR RELIEF THAT THE US DELEGATION HEADED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD RANK FIRST IN THE ORDER OF PRECEDENCE IN ALL CEREMONIES. AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS COMING, MADAME CHIANG PERSONALLY INVOLVED HERSELF IN CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
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PARTY. FOR INSTANCE BEFORE THE LEVEL OF THE DELEGATION

WAS KNOWN MOFA HAD RESERVED THE 4TH FLOOR (BELOW OTHER DELEGATIONS) OF THE GRAND HOTEL FOR THE US DELEGATION, BUT THE MADAME INSISTED THE VICE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE THE FIRST OFFICIAL GUEST TO USE THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE AND THE AMERICAN DELEGATION NOW HAS THE 9TH THROUGH 12TH FLOOR OF THE GRAND HOTEL.

3. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS CHINESE CONTACTS HAVE DESCRIBED THE DECISION TO SEND THE VICE PRESIDENT AS "RESTORING MY FAITH IN AMERICA" AND AS REFLECTING THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES "BEHAVES RESPONSIBLY" AND KNOWS "WHAT BEING A FRIEND ENTAILS."

4. OFFICIAL AMERICANS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR HAPPINESS. ONE LETTER FROM AN AMERICAN WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE ALLEGED DECISION TO SEND SECRETARY BUTZ WROTE AGAIN SAYING, "AS A PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZEN LIVING IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, I AM GRATEFUL TO LEARN THAT VICE PRESIDENT NELSON ROCKEFELLER AND A DELEGATION OF HIGHLY RESPECTED AMERICAN DIGNITARIES ARE COMING TO PAY RESPECTS TO THE LATE PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK".
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